

Application No. 10/084,491
Amendment 37 CFR 1.116
Reply to Office Action dated March 24, 2005
September 26, 2005

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please substitute the following claims for the pending claims with the same numbers respectively:

Claim 1 (Cancelled):

Claim 2 (Previously presented): A safety indwelling syringe as set forth in claim 13, wherein the protective sheath is slidably fitted inside the tubular portion of the fixed sheath.

Claim 3 (Previously presented): A safety indwelling syringe as set forth in claim 13, wherein the protective sheath is slidably fitted outside the tubular portion of the fixed sheath.

Claims 4-8 (Cancelled):

Claim 9 (Currently Amended): A safety indwelling syringe ~~as set forth in claim 8~~, comprising:

a hollow needle to be inserted into a body of a patient;

a fixed sheath fixing the hollow needle and having a tubular

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portion, the tubular portion partially covering the needle; and
a protective sheath slidably movable and guided by the
tubular portion of the fixed sheath between a first position
where the protective sheath is housed inside of the fixed sheath
and a second position where a tip of the hollow needle is
entirely covered by the protective sheath; wherein,
the protective sheath and the tubular portion of the fixed
sheath have a locking means for restricting sliding movement of
the protective sheath relative to the tubular portion, wherein
the locking means comprises a locking slot and a locking
projection, and

wherein:

each of the fixed sheath and the protective sheath has a wing, and when the wings are aligned symmetrically, the hollow needle is exposed, and when the sheaths are slid in directions to distance the wings from one another and locked, the protective sheath covers the hollow needle entirely.

Claims 10-11 (Cancelled):

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Claim 12 (Currently amended): A safety indwelling syringe ~~as set forth in claim 7,~~

comprising:

a hollow needle to be inserted into a body of a patient;
a fixed sheath fixing the hollow needle and having a tubular
portion, the tubular portion partially covering the needle; and
a protective sheath slidably movable and guided by the
tubular portion of the fixed sheath between a first position
where the protective sheath is housed inside of the fixed sheath
and a second position where a tip of the hollow needle is
entirely covered by the protective sheath; wherein,

the protective sheath and the tubular portion of the fixed
sheath have a locking means for restricting sliding movement of
the protective sheath relative to the tubular portion, and

wherein the fixed sheath includes a slit and the protective sheath includes a wing coupled thereto, the wing being movable along the slit until a portion of the wing contacts an end of the slit and stops further movement of the wing, and wherein the end of the slit and the locking means restrict sliding movement of the protective sheath in both directions.

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Claim 13 (Previously presented): A safety indwelling syringe, comprising:

a hollow needle to be inserted into a body of a patient;

a fixed sheath fixing the hollow needle and having a tubular portion, the tubular portion covering the needle partly;

a protective sheath slidably fitted to and guided by the tubular portion of the fixed sheath, the protective sheath being movable relative to the tubular portion and covering the hollow needle entirely;

the fixed sheath and the protective sheath comprising locking means having a slot and a latch projection for engaging with the slot so that the locking means prevents the protective sheath from separating from the fixed sheath; and

a pair of wings, at least one of the wings being coupled to the protective sheath for pulling out the protective sheath.

Claim 14 (Previously presented): A safety indwelling syringe as set forth in claim 13, wherein the fixed sheath includes a slit and the protective sheath includes a wing coupled thereto, the wing being movable along the slit until a portion of the wing contacts an end of the slit and stops further movement of the

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wing, and wherein the end of the slit and the locking means restrict sliding movement of the protective sheath in both directions.

Claim 15 (Previously presented): A safety indwelling syringe as set forth in claim 13, wherein the protective sheath comprises at least two slide sheaths.